Serving Agawam and Feeding Hills Since 1965 Calendar 19 Seniors 5 Legals 15 Public Safety 5 Sports 12 antisa Classifieds.....16 **20 PAGES** Basketball . . 12 **JANUARY 1, 2015** VOL. 36, NO. 43

> A **TURLEY** PUBLICATION www.turley.com

AFD puts out a call

Part-time firefighters sought for 4 vacancies

By Christopher Faille aan@turley.com

The town's Fire Department, which has a cap of 13 part-time or "on call" firefighters, is now four short of that cap, and is looking to fill those vacancies.

Deputy Chief Bernard Calvi

said that vacancies generally open up as people move out of town, because residency in Agawam is a requirement of the position.

Members of the on-call staff are paid by the time they put in, currently \$9.50 an hour. Drilling takes up a minimum of four hours a month. Also, there is a once-a-year

all-day event known as the "live burn," usually an all-day (Sunday) commitment, and usually held in the early fall.

Longtime Agawam resident Mike Nicora has been an on-call firefighter since 1994. This form of service is in his blood, he said:

Please see FIRE, page 2



Submitted photo



t's an eyesore - it's an entertainment center redevelopment - it's a _downtown business district – it's a grant proposal.

Walnut Street Extension was all of these things, with the town giving mixed signals on mixed-use development, in 2014.

Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos made it her mission early in 2014 to get the Mixed Use Zone passed by the Agawam City Council. She considered it to be the only way to redevelop the business area near the Springfield-Suffield-Main street intersection.

Walnut Street Extension had been devastated by poor conditions, a dilapidated Games and Lanes building that had been vacant for nearly 15 years, and a lack of flexibility in zoning byarea. The vote was 6-4 in favor of the change, but zoning ordinances require eight votes from city councilors.

The councilors that dissented believed the Games and Lanes property needed to be addressed first, and that doing the zone change would be putting the "cart before the horse."

The six councilors supporting the zone change did so because a group of 19 business owners, whose properties would all be affected by the zone change, wanted it to happen. Council President Christopher Johnson also pointed out the zoning Street dated back to the 1950s, and needed updating.

Following the denial, the Planning Board used a clause in town code that allows them to send a proposal back to the council if it received a recommendation from their board. Planning

HIMDING

Please see WALNUT, page 11 ath as police chief

Stephen Mateus

A voice for the students

AHS senior sits on School Committee with elected officials

> By Mike Lydick aan@turley.com

Stephen Mateus enjoys his role as the School Committee's student representative so much that he often prefers it to relaxing with friends.

"It's actually quite a relief to be involved in pretty important school matters instead of figuring out whose house I'm going to be hanging out at," he said. "Everyone on the committee treats me with the respect of a tax-paying, hard-working adult, even though I'm still in

high school. I feel like a professional although sometimes I forget to dress the part."

The AHS senior, who joined the committee in September, doesn't mind the extra time the position requires — he seems to thrive on being busy. He takes several AP and honors classes,

participates in athletics like soccer and outdoor track, holds a part-time job, serves as class secretary, and is "trying to fit in a couple more good months" of being a teenager.

"I've always had a tight schedule. It's just how I function," he said. "Stress can be a burden, but it's much better than being at home without a care in the world and absolutely no plan for the future."

His future following high school includes attending law school and becoming an attorney. Mateus has applied to Western New England University, Boston University, Suffolk University, UMass Amherst, and his "dream school," Stanford.

Mateus acknowledges that the School Committee position may improve his chances of being accepted at one of those colleges. But the 2014-15 student representative said the main reason he sought the position was to be a positive voice for students.

Please see STUDENT, page 3



More inside

- Town applies for \$10,000 grant for Walnut St. Ext., page 3
- A look back at front-page news and photos in 2014, page 6
- How well did you follow the news? Take the quiz, page 20



Bitzas recognized for Ro

Sworn in to serve Preschoolers in 'dire' need of new facility

FIRE, from page 1

"My dad was a volunteer firefighter from the time he was 18," and Nicora naturally took it up.

Nicora said the commitment in hours ranges from a minimum of 250 to more than 400 per year, and varies wildly from month to month, week to week.

"Some weeks we get calls every day, day and night, but there are other weeks that go by with very little activity," Nicora said. A brush fire can require an on-call firefighter's presence for five to six hours. Last summer's tornado represented a commitment "that must have been 10 to 12 hours."

The type of work involved varies by season. Nicora said that in the summer, brush fires are common. Then "in the cold weather there are chimney fires and furnace malfunctions."

Nicora is a real estate appraiser in his "day job." He said the fact that he is self-employed gives him more flexibility than some. If he makes a day call for the Fire Department, he'll make it up by working evening hours on his appraisals. Those who have less adaptable circumstances simply don't respond while they are working their first job. What all the on-call firefighters have in common, he said, is that they make a huge sacrifice.

"We have all missed family parties, dinners, kids' games" and Nicora personally has "missed a few Christmas mornings and other holidays."

Nicora also mentioned hitting the books nights and weekends. He says "Once you're

sworn in you're allowed and encouraged to take the courses offered through the state."

Calvi said other requirements are that "an applicant must be 18 years or older, with a high school diploma or GED, have a valid Massachusetts driver's license, and must be able to pass the civil service firefighter's agility test" as mandated by state law.

An applicant should be prepared to take a six-month course, formally known as the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Program, managed by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. According to the academy website, the latest graduating class in this program has completed 320 hours of training on nights and weekend.

Though Agawam remains committed to its call staff, the institution of the on-call volunteer is on a decline across the region. The trend in the state is toward professionalization of firefighting, Calvi said. He said that Agawam is the last town in the area that still supplements a professional force with a small on-call staff. Longmeadow, he said, was the most recent to abandon such an arrangement and go all-professional.

For many towns, said Calvi, the costs involved simply outweigh the benefits. For Agawam, too, the costs are a consideration. Insurers charge liability premiums based on the upper cap on the on-call staff, rather than on the actual number of on-call volunteers. Thus, about a year ago, the department reduced its cap from 15 to 13.

Calvi emphasized that in the event of a structure fire the full-timers go out first, and



Submitted photos

Jeff Oakes and Vinnie Nitri, two oncall firefighters with the Agawam Fire Department.

the on-call firefighters come in to take up the desk work and to man a reserve engine, to be called on scene if needed — or attend to any other emergency, such as a medical call, that arises while the professional staff is working on the fire.

Christmas tree collection is Jan. 5-8

Republic Services will provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees next week, on the same day as residents' scheduled trash collection.

Christmas trees 7 feet or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the homeowner's regular trash collection day. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall. The regular trash truck will not be collecting trees; a separate truck will be running the collection on the same date.

For residents wishing to dispose of their tree prior to or after the scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for Bondi's Island Landfill are available at the Agawam Department of Public Works, at 1000 Suffield St., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Town seeks grant to move Walnut Street Ext. designs forward

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

The town of Agawam has applied for a \$10,000 Downtown Initiative grant from the state to bring their design process forward to develop the Walnut Street Extension.

Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos is applying for the grant as one of her final steps before handing the project over to the next town planner. Dachos is planning to retire in February 2015.

Dachos wants to see the Walnut Street Extension improvements move as far as she can before retiring. She is currently working with Chris Curtis, a planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Curtis has been working with Dachos and a subcommittee appointed by Mayor Rich-

ard Cohen to come up with a design and plan to beautify the area and make it a destination for shopping and dining.

"The PVPC believes that Walnut Street Extension has great potential to be a wonderful mixed-use center where people can come and eat and do their shopping," said Curtis. "The PVPC is very happy to be working with Agawam on this project."

The PVPC presented some conceptual drawings at a public hearing on Oct. 29. The subcommittee then took comments from business owners and residents and used them to prepare a conceptual drawing that could be used to move forward with construction documents for bidding.

Curtis says the Downtown Initiative grant will allow the drawings to go to a professional architect. With a professional design, Curtis said the town of Agawam would apply for a MassWorks grant for up to \$1 million. That may be enough to complete the construction of the design, he said.

Curtis said the town is currently waiting to hear about the Downtown grant, but is looking at other grants that could help with Walnut Street.

"The town applied for the Downtown grant on Dec. 4," said Curtis. "It is also looking at other possibilities, including a Brownfield grant that would help pay for the cleanup of the Games & Lanes property. That is something that we really need to happen. It is an eyesore."

There are currently no imminent plans for a person to purchase the property. The last potential buyer, Scott Petlock of Ware, backed out after telling the Agawam City Council he was very interested in the property. Taking his interest in mind, the council approved changing Walnut Street to a mixed-use business zone. The zone change was a positive step in helping the town get the technical assistance grant and will also help as they apply for the MassWorks grant next year.

"The mixed-use zone really opened up the area to a lot of possibilities," said Curtis.

Curtis said there are some variables to how the town will proceed because it is unclear if grant options will change in 2015.

"We have a new governor and administration coming in 2015," said Curtis. "We hope the grant programs will continue."

Curtis says he has been working with the sub-committee for the past two months and helped the town utilizing a District Local Technical Assistance grant. Agawam has had the grant for the past two years.

STUDENT, from page 1

"I'm a voice for the voiceless. If some-body would like something to be recognized, I'm here to make that happen and address it in the most positive of ways," said the Agawam native. "I'm not sure how many students tune into Channel 15 on Tuesdays at 7 to watch the meetings, but those who know about my role respect it and tend to assist me in pointing out what the school has to offer."

Outside of school, Mateus works as much as he can and enjoys writing poetry. Two years ago, he authored the poem "20 Little Angels." He wrote the poem following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to honor the 20 first-grade students who were killed.

A leader and a listener

AHS Principal Steve Lemanski said since Mateus was a freshman he's been a consistent representative and a leader for his class on the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) that meets monthly with Lemanski.

"Stephen's a quiet listener — which will help him succeed in this position and in the future. He seems level-headed and doesn't get too excited and overwhelmed — at least externally," said Lemanski. "He's a student who can be counted on and who follows through."

Each spring a junior on the SAC is elected to serve as the student representative during his or her senior year. Kreag Sheehan, the 2013-14 student representative, helped Mateus understand the commitment the position requires.

Mateus, who turns 18 in January, said he's "very grateful" to be the student representative.

"Kreag and I were pretty good friends, so I was aware of the sacrifices he made during



Turley Publication photos by Mike Lydick

Stephen Mateus, the School Committee's 2014-15 student representative, talks with committee member Roberta Doering at a recent meeting.

his term. He did quite a job as our student representative, so I wanted to follow in his footsteps."

Impressive decision makers

Impressed by how committee members "come together" at each meeting to try to resolve issues, Mateus said the decisions are not always unanimous, "but the idea that a committee of individuals can make time in their already busy schedules to value others in the community and work to make the town an even better place is pretty nice."

He said his family and his parents, Avelino and Mary Mateus, appreciate his serious and responsible nature. Mateus added that

"they're proud of me" and show their appreciation whenever they learn about some of his accomplishments.

One of his role models for serving in a public office is Mayor Richard Cohen, who chairs the School Committee. "He seems to be doing a pretty good job of keeping all things in check in Agawam while never ceasing to get at least someone in the room to light up with a smile," Mateus said.

When asked if he might seek an appointed or elected public office, either in Agawam or elsewhere, at some point in the future, Mateus replied, "You never know. I very well just might."

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?



Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.

Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Shelley Reed was Barb Sours. A late submission



correctly identifying Valentine Moreno in the Dec. 18 issue was received from Larry Scherpa.



Frank A. Forastiere
President, Funeral Director



Matthew J. Fantasia
Funeral Director

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Opinion

Christmas tree event the work of many

tring a few lights, sing a few songs what could be easier than a town Christmas tree on Main Street?

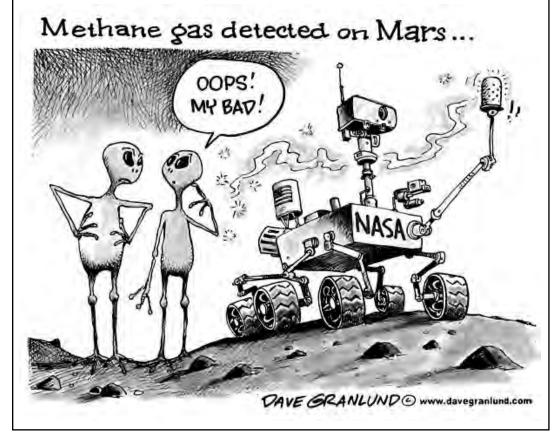
Well, it didn't happen by itself.

Next time you drive past the Veterans Green, think of the effort you put into choosing, transporting, setting up, lighting, decorating and caring for your own Christmas tree — and remember that a lot of Agawam residents had to come together, and put in that same amount of effort, to bring holiday cheer to the center of town.

It didn't have to happen this year. Last year's event was run by the Rev. Earl Eisenbach, in one of his last duties before retiring from Agawam Congregational Church. It's a tall order to ask any particular pastor — a group that's understandably pretty busy with their "day jobs" each December — to coordinate and sponsor a town event. It's only because the Agawam Clergy Association stepped in, as a group, that the Christmas tree and the tree lighting ceremony continued.

It didn't have to happen at all. Agawam got by for decades without a civic Christmas tree or carol sing. It only came to be because former City Councilor Robert Magovern saw the need, and had the imagination to envision bright lights in the center of town, and townspeople singing together in the cold winter night. And he put in the hard, multiyear effort that it takes to get a new tradition off the ground and turn it into a well-attended, eagerly awaited annual event.

As we close the book on 2014 and start looking ahead to the new year, let's take a minute to say thanks to the members of our community who make "community" happen - the people who put in the effort behind our civic traditions. Whether the gathering is sponsored by the clergy, the Historical Society, local veterans, some other nonprofit group or simply one generous person, these events don't just happen by themselves. Somebody got the ball rolling and it takes somebody — usually somebodies — to carry it on every year.



As we close the books on 2014, a thanks to all the local letter writers and columnists who shared their views with us on the opinion page over the past 12 months. Thanks to the Rev. Richard Adams, Agawam Beautification Committee, Agawam Hockey Booster Club, Agawam Lions Club, Agawam Rotary, Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, Agawam-West Springfield CROP Planning Committee, the Bachini Family, Barbara Bard, Christina Beauchemin, Richard Bennett, Jay Berger, George Bitzas, Pastor Ken Blanchard, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, Anthony C. Bonavita, Elaine Bowler, Boy Scout Troop 77, Robert M. Burke, Marcia E. Capuano, Dana Carnegie, Marlayna Chriscola, Matt Christian, the Rev. Domenic K. Ciannela, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Community Grange No. 382, Michelle Connery, Ruth Cosimini, J. Emile Coté, Darcy Davis, Jeannette Denoncourt, Sam DiSanti, Deb Florek, Friends of Robinson State Park, Friends of the Senior Center, Barb Govoni, Dorothy Graveline, Pastor Harvey Hill, the Rev. Tom Howells, state Sen. Donald Humason Jr., Ron Jean, JoAnn Juthe, Diane Juzba, Bob Kadis, Tim Kane, Rose Kieffer, Lace 'Em Up for Lexi Committee, Pat Lalancette, Patrick Leahy, Lighthouse Christian Center, John Linnehan, Anne Liptak, Tim Lockwood, Ann Macey, Aldo Mancini, Gina Mancini, Mary Ann Marzano, Maggie McCarthy, Roberta McQuaid, Gwenn Meredith, Jill Messick, Sue Meunier, Kathy Mouneimnheh, Senior Elder Bob Olmstead, Mark Paleologopoulos, Warren L. Parker, the Rev. Brad Peterson, Joelle Phillips, Donna Quinn Pisano, Sean Provost, the Rev. Tim Reed, Alfred Riberdy, Deborah Sanchez, Rosemary Sandlin, Julie Smist, Cynthia Sutter, Beverly Tetreault, Walt Willard and Corinne M. Wingard.

To all who wrote, thanks again and we're looking forward to reading what you have to say in 2015. And to everyone else — we want to hear from you, too. Let your neighbors know what you think about the day's news. Send your letter to the editor to Agawam Advertiser News, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or email aan@turley.com.

Michael J. Ballway

Editor, Agawam Advertiser News

Elsa, continued

Isa grew rapidly and her very first plaything was a tennis ball. I was an avid ten-Inis player and there was a plentiful supply of tennis balls early on. That would change. She

JAY SPEAKS

IAY BERGER

ADVERTISER NEWS

COLUMNIST

would sleep under our bed. As she grew and could no longer sleep there, she would sleep on the floor alongside Kitty.

I was an early riser and was off to work before 6 a.m. As soon as I left the bed, Elsa would leap onto the bed. She was Kitty's dog. The children and I had picked the right gift for Kitty's birthday.

Over the years, her fame spread. "Elsa is that dog who is never without a tennis ball."

"Did you see how high that dog leaps to catch that tennis ball."

"I can't believe how fast she goes after that ball. Then she shreds the cover off the ball so that she can spit it out while she plays with it."

I belonged to the tennis club in Longmeadow. As her fame spread, the members set a container aside in the corner of the locker room. Someone marked the basket in magic marker ... "Elsa's tennis balls."

She made up any number of games to play when the children or I couldn't find time to play with her. One game went like this: She would strip the cover off the tennis ball, then lie down on her back, put the tennis ball between her front paws, then fling the ball against the garage door and chase after it.

Another game took place on our back porch. She would position the tennis ball on the edge of the porch steps, then bat the ball with her paw and chase the ball down the steps and onto the sidewalk.

> There was an enormous oak tree in the back yard. Elsa would line up several balls at the base of the tree. Each one would be batted up the tree trunk and she would go running after the ball. Somehow they all worked better for her if she first took the cover off.

> We had a pop-up camping trailer which we used for vacations. Elsa would stash balls in a cupboard of the trailer. For several summers, we rented a spot on a manmade lake in Stafford Springs. There was a big field alongside the tennis courts. I would play fetch with Elsa by throwing the ball high in

the air, Elsa would allow the ball to bounce and then as the ball went up in the air, she would leap and catch it several feet in the air. Another game she loved was for me to throw a tennis ball up off the roof of the house (this is three stories up). She would track the ball as it came off the roof and time her leap so that she would catch it several feet off the ground, in her mouth.

Elsa was protective of our home. Anyone coming close to the house would find Elsa barking at them. Except for our mailman. She would wait by the mail slot and snatch the mail in her mouth and bring the mail into the kitchen for our study.

Kitty tells the tale that Elsa could tell by the sound of our automobile when I had turned the



Submitted photo

Elsa

corner into the street and would rush to the door to greet me.

She seemed to get along with our cat "Tiger," as well as with the neighbor's three cats. In fact, Tiger would sneak between Elsa's legs when she was eating and never pushed her away.

We did have one serious problem with Elsa when our home was robbed. It appeared to the police that she was lured into the back yard with a piece of meat. Then the door was closed while the robbers took jewelry, silver and appliances. The meat must have been tainted, because Elsa was not herself for quite a while after that incident.

The final segment of the Elsa story will follow shortly.

Jay Berger is an Agawam resident.



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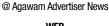
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NOTICES & SERV

Champagne, Michelle R. Died Dec. 21, 2014 Funeral Dec. 29, 2014 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home Agawam

Chandler, Ruth B. Brown Died Dec. 23, 2014 Memorial Service Dec. 31, 2014 Almon Funeral Home Carrollton, Ga.

Chase, John M.R. Died Dec. 22, 2014 Funeral Dec. 30, 2014 Agawam Funeral Home D'Amario, Robert A. Died Dec. 22, 2014 Funeral Dec. 27, 2014 Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral

Kelley, Paul J. Died Dec. 24, 2014 Funeral Dec. 27, 2014 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home

Viens, Lawrence R. Died Dec. 26, 2014 Funeral Jan. 2, 2015 Agawam Funeral Home

City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School 68 Main St. Monday, Jan. 5 7 p.m.

A. Roll Call

- B. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen's Speak Time
- 1. Regular Council Meeting Dec. 15,
- E. Declaration from Council President
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
- 1. TR-2014-49- A Resolution accepting a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State 911 Department pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A for the Agawam Police Department (\$27,063.23) (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)
- 2. TR-2014-50- A Resolution accepting a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chap-

 $oldsymbol{Agawam\ Senior}$

Center

Weekly calendar

of events

nior Center closed.

Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day. Se-

Friday, Jan. 2: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m.,

All Media Art; noon, Canasta; 1 p.m.,

Lunch menu

Monday, Jan. 5: Shepherd's pie, garden

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Roast chicken Floren-

Wednesday, Jan. 7: Open-faced turkey

sandwich on whole-wheat with gravy,

Thursday, Jan. 8: Meatloaf, mashed po-

Friday, Jan. 9: Baked fish, au gratin po-

tatoes, California blend vegetables, pud-

tine, rice pilaf, dilled carrots, birthday

Pitch, Cribbage; No Zumba Gold.

cranberry, green beans, apricots.

tatoes, gravy, peas, mixed fruit.

<u>Seniors</u>

ter 44, Section 53A to the Town of Agawam (\$10,000) (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)

- G. Report of council committees
- H. Elections
- 1. TE-2015-1- Election of city auditor
- 2. TE-2015-2- Election of administrative assistant (Council)
- I. Public hearings
- J. Old Business
- 1. TO-2014-60- An Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's License to Zielinski Brothers II, 218 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
- 2. TO-2014-61- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device and Weekly Amusement Permit for Main Street Still, Inc., 858 Suffield St., Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
 - K. New Business
 - 1. Unavailable at press time.
- L. Any other matter that may legally come before the city council.

Tickets available for **Atlantic Canada cruise**

St. John's Travelers will host an Atlantic Canada Cruise Tour July 5 through July 11. The seven-day trip will include stops at Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. An informational meeting will be held Monday, Jan.

Tour prices are \$1,647 per person, double occupancy; \$2,227 per person, single occupancy; and \$1,577 per person, triple occupancy. Single rooms are limited.

Tickets include deluxe motor coach transportation, one night private stateroom on board ship, five nights hotel accommodations, taxes, baggage handling and port taxes.

Also included are four breakfasts, five dinners, guided tours of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Prince Edward Island, all sightseeing and admissions fees, tickets for the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, a full-time tour escort and gratuities for the driver, escort and local guides..

A tour deposit of \$250 per person is due no later than Feb. 15 with full payment due by May 15. Optional travel insurance is available for \$86 per person, double and triple occupancy and \$107 per person, single occupancy.

For more information and reservations, contact Emile Cote, 2 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, at 413-335-9440.

Public Safety Fire Log

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 63 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Dec. 23 to Dec. 29.

On Dec. 24 at 4:47 a.m., the department responded to Almgren Drive for local alarm system, malicious false alarm.

On Dec. 24 at 11:22 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid. On Dec. 24 at 6:27 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 24 at 7:07 p.m., the department responded to Almgren Drive for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Dec. 24 at 7:52 p.m., the department responded to Almgren Drive for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Dec. 26 at 9:59 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street to assist police or other governmental agency.

On Dec. 26 at 12:51 p.m., the department responded to Oak Lane for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 26 at 1:18 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for good intent

On Dec. 26 at 3:58 p.m., the department responded to Pleasant Valley Road for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 27 at 6:42 p.m., the department responded to South West Street for fire,

On Dec. 27 at 10:44 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 Rotary for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 28 at 4:12 a.m., the department responded to Elm Street to assist invalid.

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 78 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Dec. 16 to Dec. 22.

On Dec. 16 at 5:27 p.m., the department responded to Oriole Drive for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., the department responded to Oak Lane for lockout.

On Dec. 16 at 9:55 p.m., the department

responded to Maple Street for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Dec. 17 at 6:38 a.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

On Dec. 17 at 4:44 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street and Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with no

On Dec. 17 at 6:58 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street at Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Dec. 17 at 9:14 p.m., the department responded to Memorial Drive for service call, other.

On Dec. 18 at 9:31 a.m., the department responded to Highland Street for no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Dec. 18 at 5:13 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 18 at 11:26 p.m., the department responded to North St. Ext. to assist invalid.

On Dec. 19 at 4:37 p.m., the department responded to Adams Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Dec. 22 at 10:34 p.m., the department responded to Maynard Street for unauthor-

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 277 calls for service from Dec. 22 to Dec. 28. The department made 2 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Ryan Burkhead, 24, of 43 Ley St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Friday, Dec. 26

Gary R. Maynard, 62, of 635 Springfield St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault.

Library to host 'Board Game Night' for adults

The Agawam Public Library will offer board games for adults on Monday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m. "Board Game Night" will include Scrabble, Bananagrams, Scattergories, Yahtzee, Stratego, Tripoley, Mad Gab, Trivial Pursuit and Boggle.

Area residents are invited to this "just for

grownups" event to join other "gamers" for some board game madness. Participants are welcome to bring their own favorite board

To register, call the library at 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.

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Community Newspaper

advertising in newspapers. truly moves their products. Besides that. Google's research shows that half of online shoppers are more seen in the paper.

AHS Alumni Hockey Game scheduled

The annual Agawam High School Hockey Alumni Game will be held Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2:40 p.m. at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield. The cost is \$20 per player, which may be paid at the door by cash or check. All checks should be made payable to the Agawam High Hockey Booster Club.

Those planning on attending are asked to respond no later than Jan. 8 by emailing agawamhockey@hotmail.com. Be sure to include year of graduation.



he Agawam Advertiser News, a Turley Publication, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover municipal and school district meetings on a regular basis. Applicants should be familiar with town government and have good writing skills. A degree in communications, English or journalism is not required, but encouraged. The applicant should be available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please send cover letter, resume and writing samples to Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. No phone calls or drop-ins please.



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The year out in fron



January: Melissa Gillis places the chief's pin on her husband, new Police Chief Eric Gillis.

The Agawam Advertiser News published 52 editions in 2014, with the top stories from our town on the front page of each. Here's a look back at one of those cover stories for each week of the past year:

January

Jan. 2: Police Lt. Eric Gillis is appointed chief, replacing Robert Campbell.

Jan. 9: Preschoolers are in "dire" need of a new Early Childhood Center, but there's no funding source in sight, school officials said.

Jan. 16: Animal Control Officer Allison Strong presented Fire Chief Alan Sirois' dog, Chopper, with the year's first dog license. Dog license tags in 2014 were red and hydrant-shaped to honor firefighters.

Jan. 23: Bridgeport National Bindery, a company based on Silver Street, piloted a program to turn students into published authors at Agawam Junior High School.

Jan. 30: Construction begins on the new YMCA Wellness Program and Family Center at 51 Springfield St., Agawam. It was expected to open in April. (It opened in October)

February

Feb. 6: The City Council failed to support a zone change for the Games 'N Lanes area of Walnut Street Extension, which had been part of a bid by the mayor and town planner to revitalize the shopping district there.

Feb. 13: Students welcomed state Education Secretary Matthew Malone to Robinson Park School. Malone said he was impressed with the technology in use at Robinson Park.

Feb. 20: Proposed casino operator MGM Springfield signed an agreement with Agawam — its second such agreement with a suburban community — providing for \$125,000 per year for 15 years in impact mitigation payments.

Feb. 27: The Planning Board has reached a consensus on what to include in a proposed bylaw restricting the siting of marijuana dispensaries in town to industrial areas only.



January: Animal Control Officer Allison Strong, right, presents Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois and his boxer, Chopper, with the first of the town's 2014 dog tags honoring firefighters.



February: Kelly Theriault is named Agawam's Colleen for 2014. In this photo from March, she poses with Madison Elias, 11, and Emily Fitzpatrick, 9.



at the image of a newborn infant being streamed to a computer monitor Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. from an EvvGirl Foundation-sponsored webcam.



January: Elijah and Leisl Bard and their grandmother, Dottie Plante, look March: The Agawam High School Marching Mohawks participate in the



January: City Councilor Cecilia Calabrese, left, stands with lieutenant governor candidate Karyn Polito during a campaign appearance at Partners Restaurant. Polito and her running mate, Governor-elect Charlie Baker, would go on to win the vote in November, both locally and statewide.



April: Local children scavenge during the town Easter egg hunt at School Street Park.

March

March 6: Six Flags New England announced it will award two \$2,000 scholarships to AHS graduates planning to study marketing, entertainment, hospitality or engineering.

March 13: State officials canceled plans to complete the long-awaited Route 57 expressway extension to Southwick, after telling Mayor Richard Cohen in February that the 20-year-old proposal was being considered.

March 20: Bernice Irene Asta-Ferrero marked her 100th birthday earlier in March, feted by family and friends at Partners Restaurant. She also received a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama.

March 27: After being rejected for state construction grants three times in three years, school officials changed tacks and applied for funds to renovate — not replace — Agawam High School.

April

April 3: Members of the Agawam Veterans Council visited the junior high school to

speak about their experiences in the Vietnam War, in advance of a student trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

April 10: Work began on the water main under North Westfield Street, one of two utility projects that would snarl traffic in Feeding Hills for almost the rest of the year.

April 17: Tommy Young, a Feeding Hills 12-year-old with a rare form of epilepsy, was able to raise \$600 for the Epilepsy Foundation of New England, six times his goal.

April 24: City Council President Christopher Johnson proposed setting up a committee to consider the needs for affordable housing in Agawam.

May

May 1: City Council meetings can now be viewed on the town's website, which itself was revamped earlier in 2014.

May 8: Several city councilors say Agawam should reopen negotiations with MGM Springfield after Longmeadow and West Springfield received more generous mitigation agreements.

May 15: The town's bond rating is in-



File photos

May: Veterans salute during a Memorial Day wreath laying at the Veterans Green on Main Street.



May: Alyssa Ribiero gets behind the wheel of a 1958 Ford Fairlane during the Valley Cruisers hot rod show at the Ice Cream Shoppe on Suffield Avenue.



April: The Agawam Lioness Club was selling historical coverlets featuring illustrations of town landmarks.

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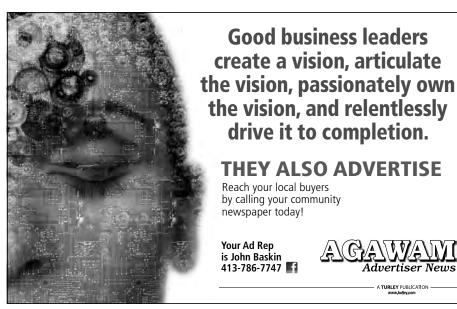
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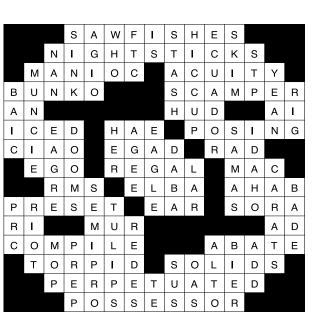






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creased from AA to AA+, as the mayor releases a five-year capital improvement plan, starting with \$800,000 in spending for fiscal 2015.

May 22: The local Relay for Life raised nearly \$90,000 — eclipsing its goal of \$70,000 — in advance of the third annual event.

May 29: The first-ever Band-Athon, featuring four generations of AHS band directors and alumni, as well as other local musical groups, is judged a successful fundraiser for the Marching Mohawks.

June

June 5: Varsity boys volleyball captured the Western Mass. Division 1 championship, defeated West Springfield, 3-0.

June 12: City councilors sparred with Mayor Richard Cohen on whether the town's salaried personnel director can also receive a stipend for additional duties.

June 19: The School Committee began deliberating on whether to keep the MCAS tests or switch to the new PARCC system for 2014-15. (In time, MCAS would be chosen)

June 26: Calling it "the greatest park in New England," arborist Matt Largess of Rhode Island proposed designating Robinson State Park as a natural history classroom and a national park.

July

July 3: Students at the junior high school held a book signing event for printed and bound books they wrote themselves as part of Bridgeport National Bindery's Future Authors Program.

July 10: Agawam's Stass Shpanin, who 12 years ago held the record of "youngest professional artist in the word," planned to mentor children and teen artists in a Hampshire College summer program.

July 17: The City Council approved a rise in the sewer rate to \$1.90 per 100 cubic feet, but Agawam's rates remained below average for the region.

July 24: Easthampton author Ellen Meeropol started a fiction writing workshop at the Agawam Public Library, to run twohour sessions on "Growing a Story" for six

July 31: The second phase of the School Street Park — picnic pavilions, a band shell, restrooms and a spray park — is on track to be complete in time for spring 2015, officials said.

August

Aug. 7: The Sullivan Memorial Sculpture next to Granger School will receive a \$3,800 irrigation system and plantings, lighting and beautification. The statue honors Hellen

Keller's teacher, a Feeding Hills native.

Aug.14: Verizon Wireless is seeking to place a cellular tower across the street from Agawam High School, on Mill Street. The request sparked a move by city councilors to require studies of tower sites.

Aug. 21: A buyer is reportedly interested in the former Games 'N Lanes property on Walnut Street Extension, vacant since the bowling alley closed in 2000.

Aug. 28: City councilors credit a twoyear-old move to fewer, larger subcommittees for an increase in efficiency and organization on the council.

September

Sept. 4: The mayor is backing a combined track, field and locker room project at Agawam High School but will need to borrow \$7.75 million to finance it.

Sept. 11: Sue and Mike Tansey are hope-



May: Six Flags New England opened the SkyScreamer, a swing ride on a 400-foot tower that is the tallest of its kind in the world.



May: Linda and Richard Gloster, right, watch Aiden Holloway, 10, of Agawam, reel his fish in during the Mawaga Sporting Club's 25th annual springtime **Lunker Trout Derby at Tarkill Brook**



June: Nicholas DeStefano helps fellow AHS graduate Danielle Stratton put on her award cords and sash.



obstacle course, but teams were undeterred as they closed out the 2014 Relay for Life of Agawam.



May: Overnight showers turned the high school's sports track into an June: John Pietroniro takes a photo of his daughter Angelina Pietroniro and her triend Gabrielle Mirolli following Agawam High School graduation at Symphony Hall in Springfield.



June: At a book signing event for junior high school students whose books were published through the Future Authors Program, Ethan Gulla speaks with teacher Stephanie Harris as his father, Greg Gulla, listens.



July: Six Flags New England retired its historic "Cyclone" roller coaster, built iin 1983. Later in the year, Six Flags announced it would bring back the Cyclone under a new name as a hybrid wooden-and-steel coaster.

ful they can reopen Partners Restaurant after a fire at the Springfield Street eatery Sept. 5. (At the end of 2014, they were back in the catering business but the restaurant was still closed.)

Sept. 18: Former employee Carol Grzywacz has completed a model replica of Betty's Old Towne House, the banquet hall on Springfield Street that was replaced by a Walgreens in 1998.

Sept. 25: In a meeting packed with opponents, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend a "no" vote on a proposal for domed soccer fields and other sports facilities on South West Street.

October

Oct. 2: Springfield Water and Sewer agreed to a \$80,000 cleanup in Feeding Hills after an August water main break on North West Street flooded homes near the

Provin Mountain Reservoir.

Oct. 9: The Phelps School PTO honored recently retired principal Theresa Urbinati by dedicating the school's new outdoor message board sign to her. She had taught in Agawam for 25 years.

Oct. 16: Agawam is slated to host its firstever "color run" — the Power of Purple 5K, a run-walk fundraiser for the Relay for Life that in which "blast stations" throw purple dye at white-shirted runners.

Oct. 23: Kimberly Wheeler announces that she plans to reopen Agawam Cinemas — which closed in May — as a first-run theater, using "crowdfunding" at Kickstarter. com.

Oct. 30: Elementary school students told contest-winning spooky stories in a candlelit evening program hosted by the Historical Society at the Thomas Smith House.



August: Ernest Whitehead prepares to take a bow in his clown regalia with fellow Agawam resident Brenna McAnanama (in blue) behind him. The pair participated in the Springfield JCC's "Circus of the Kids" summer camp.



September: Police and fire officers stand in formation facing the town's granite 9/11 memorial during a ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.



File photos

June: Some of the nearly 300 books written by AJHS eighth-graders that were published as part of the Future Authors Program.



August: Tyler Saroglou clearly enjoys his simulated "wheelie" on a Melha Shriners three-wheeled motorcycle parked at National Night Out.



August: Employees at V&F Auto on Springfield Street participated in the "Ice Bucket Challenge" to raise money and awareness in the fight against ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.



September: Partners Restaurant on Springfield Street is closed after a fire caused extensive damage to the restaurant.



October: A scene from "Blood Reservoir," Agawam resident Mark Del Negro's new film released in time for Halloween.







November

Nov. 6: Agawam voted consistently Republican in the state election, backing Governor-elect Charlie Baker and returning state Sen. Donald Humason Jr. and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga.

Nov. 13: Parents said school officials were too slow to notify them that police had been called to Agawam High School for a bomb threat, but the superintendent said protocol was followed.

Nov. 20: The City Council agreed to spend Community Preservation Act funds to restore the School Street Barn, but stopped short of backing improvements such as plumbing or heating.

Nov. 27: Agawam Municipal Golf Course will get \$91,000 to tide it over until next season, the City Council determined, but councilors said they want to see the course turning a profit by then.

December

Dec. 4: Agawam Parents for Children First told the school board that all the changes surrounding Common Core and PARCC tests were creating uncertainty and anxiety among parents and students.

Dec. 11: Deborah Dachos, Agawam's town planner for the past 33 years — the only person ever to hold that office in town — announced she will retire in February 2015.

Dec. 18: The town's new cellular tower law — requiring the tower's owner to pay for a site study before a permit can be issued — will have to be re-voted because a public hearing was never held.

Dec. 25: The annual Christmas tree lighting on the Veterans Green, an eight-year tradition begun by Bob Magovern, continued under new sponsorship by the Agawam Clergy Association.

Compiled by Michael J. Ballway



October: White T-shirts were covered in purple dye at "blast stations" along the Power of Purple 5K, a fundraiser to benefit the Relay for Life in Agawam.



October: Agawam Cinemas in Southgate Plaza, which had closed in May, started raising money in October to reopen as a first-run theater.



September: Members of the AHS Rosie Robotics team used a giant orange ball to demonstrate Rosie's capabilities as they rolled along in The Big E parade on Salute to Agawam Day at the fair.



November: Diana Kulmizer constructs a scale model arch bridge during an AJHS Science Olympiad meeting.



October: Mayor Richard Cohen laughs at a mock banner presented during the grand opening of the new YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center on Springfield Street.



October: Haley Hinshaw, 11, left, pulls up to the "McDonald's drive-through," operated by Sarah Langston, right, at James Clark School's trunk-or-treat Halloween event.



November: Chief Alan Sirois, sporting a rare moustache in honor of "Movember" — a cancer awareness effort — raises the hand of Red Ferrier, who won the Fire Department's moustache contest with "The Dictator."



December: St. Nick surprises two-year-old Brooklyn Nash at the Agawam Junior Women's Club annual breakfast with Santa.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: Kristina Lemire, Westfield State University; Tyler Loubier, Johnson State College; James Macey, Lasell College; Kyla McGurn, College of Saint Rose, Emmanuel College, West Virginia University; Kayla Moquin, University of Maine; Emily Murphy, Curry College; Alissa O'Connell, College of Saint Rose, Hofstra University; Allison Schwarz, UMass Amherst; Ashley Webster, UMass Dartmouth, Fitchburg State University; Ashley Tibbetts, Bay Path University; Phillip Woods, Westfield State University; Emily Murphy, Salem State University.

Seniors: Please let Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office know what college / university you have been accepted into.

Helping Your Child Find the Right College: Bay Path University will host this event on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. This session will provide a plan of action that starts with understanding how your child learns best and identifying what he or she is hoping to achieve from their college experience. To attend, pre-register at http://bit.ly/PlanningForCollege1.

Bay Path Same Day Decision Acceptance: Is being offered at Agawam High School on Jan. 14. Sign up with Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office.

FAFSA Day (College Goal Sunday):

This volunteer-driven program provides free assistance to students and families seeking to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on either Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. at American International College or Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. at Holyoke Community College. Parents should bring their FAFSA pin (www.pin.ed.gov), Social Security number, driver's license number, most recent federal tax return, most recent W-2 or year-end pay stub, untaxed income records, bank statement(s), business and investment records and Alien Registration Card (if not a U.S. citizen). For more information, visit www.fafsaday.org.

Free SAT Practice Test: Princeton Review will host a free SAT practice test to AHS students on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students must pre-register at princetonreview.com or 800-2-REVIEW, ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

SAT Prep Course: Princeton Review will host an SAT Prep Course at AHS beginning Jan. 28. Students must pre-register and pay at princetonreview.com or 800-2-REVIEW, ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

RESIDENTS PERFORM AT HOLIDAY CONCERT



Submitted photo

Feeding Hills residents Stefen Welch and Luke Wetmore were among UMass Dartmouth students that took part in a holiday concert Friday, Dec. 12, at the College of Visual and Performing Arts Recital Hall. The university community was invited to the concert, which included performances by the University Chorus, Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

Free medical clinic at Bethany

A New Covenant Free Clinic is being cosponsored by New Covenant Community Services and Bethany Assembly of God on Tuesday, Jan. 6, from 6-8 p.m. The clinic will provide non-emergent care for people age 18 and over.

"The mission is to provide medical care in the Pioneer Valley community by the serving body, mind and spirit with compassionate Christ-centered care," explained Dr. Kevin Snow, the clinic physician.

Although people are required to have insurance in Massachusetts, in the current economic condition some people cannot afford the co-payments to see their primary care physician for immediate non-emergency

medical issues. The free clinic is intended to help these individuals receive the medical care they so desperately need.

The staff of licensed medical care workers volunteer their time and skills, and no revenue will be collected for the services provided. The entire team is committed to providing quality care on all levels. A visit to the clinic will include a demographic check-in, medical assessment, and spiritual encouragement. The free clinic operates once a month at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. All medical records will be kept in strict confidence.

For more information, call the clinic at 413-363-0098.

'Crochet Club' to begin Jan. 12

The Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Agawam, will resume its "Crochet Club" beginning Monday, Jan. 12. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, embroiderers and more.

Attendees are welcome to bring their yarn stash, hooks and needles. Supplies

are also available at each meeting. Men and women of all skill levels are welcome. Club members are eager to teach beginners.

Meetings are held every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and are free to all. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

WALNUT, from page 1

Board Chairman Mark Paleologopoulos sent a letter to city councilors in February stating more business owners were interested in the zone change, and continued to lobby for the advantages the zone change would give current business owners on the street.

The Planning Board also argued the zone change would make the town eligible for grant funding through Mass-Works.

The zone change was heard again on April 7, with a catalyst entering the mix for the council to reconsider its position.

During a public hearing, several more residents, representing various interest groups, spoke in favor of making the zone change. But it was Ware resident Scott Petlock, who expressed interest in purchasing and cleaning up the Games and Lanes property, that also caught their attention.

Petlock owns a go-kart business and told the City Council he would be interested in refurbishing the building for that purpose. He was open to cleaning up the property and making it a destination for residents.

Councilor Robert Rossi, who was originally against the zone change, changed his mind, citing the passion coming from the supporters of the zone change.

The speakers convinced the rest of the council, and the zone change finally passed unanimously through two readings.

Since April, Dachos has been working on plans to apply for a MassWorks grant, something that will likely happen in 2015. She spent most of 2014 working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission through a District Local Technical Assistance grant to work on plans for a redesign of Walnut Street Extension.

In October, several conceptual plans of a promenade were presented at a public information hearing. A subcommittee had been established to assist Dachos with the redesign and includes Superintendent of Public Works Christopher Golba, Planning Board member Tricia O'Grady-Howard, Town Engineer Michelle Chase, Walnut Street property owner Larry White, and Council on Aging Director Joan Linnehan.

There were six maps presented, all with different approaches to beautifying the facades of buildings on the street, as well as creating walking spaces, additional parking, and "pocket parks," which are defined as small areas of grass that have park furniture. Dachos hopes the re-vamped look will also lead to outdoor dining areas.

Meanwhile, Dachos has said despite Petlock's interest in April, there has been no forward movement in the purchase or cleanup of Games and Lanes.

It is the goal of the subcommittee to apply for grant funding in 2015 and start the process of physically revitalizing the business district on Walnut Street Extension. Dachos is planning to retire in February after 33 years as planning director, and will hand the project on to her successor.

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To celebrate our 1st birthday in March we're pulling out all the stops, inviting parents to send a recent photo of their child (aged 6 months to 16) for consideration as our birthday cover model.

Parents can send 1 photo of their child to models@baystateparent.com with the child's name, age, town and parent's

contact information. The finalists will be invited to our office (located in Millbury, MA) for a professional photo shoot. The winner will be chosen from the finalists and will be asked to come back for the final shoot and appear on the cover of the March issue of **baystateparent** West!

All entries must be received by Monday, January 19th.

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Colts tip Brownies in River Classic

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Agawam started out with a lead, but Comp came back, and continued to come back each time Agawam would get out in front.

In the end, the Chicopee Comp boys basketball team opened up the Connecticut River Classic Tournament with a 54-50 win against newcomer Agawam.

Holyoke's boys and girls basketball teams had previously participated in the tournament along with Comp, Chicopee High, and Longmeadow. Holyoke dropped the tournament this year, and the Agawam boys and West Springfield girls were inserted into the action this season.

The game came right down to the wire, with the two teams tied 40-40 late in the fourth quarter. The teams would stay deadlocked until Agawam took a 45-42 lead thanks to a score from Joe Moccio.

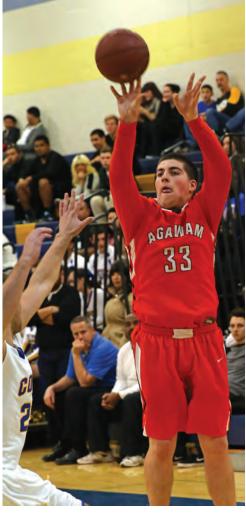
Comp would stay close with a 3-pointer from Kenny Mendez, followed by a layup by Eric Perez. With 3:22 left, Comp led 47-45. Meesha Ohdraka hit a layup with 2:42 at make it 47-47.

After a pair of fouls on both sides, Agawam was able to take a 50-49 lead on free throws made by Moccio

With 46 seconds left, Comp's Steven Velasquez came through with a pair of free throws to make it 51-50 Comp. Agawam did not manage to score while trailing,

Please see CLASSIC, page 13





Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Left: Agawam's Joe Moccio (21) pulls up for a jumper in the paint.

Above: Agawam's Sean Moore (33) shoots a long jumper.

Lady Pacers rally to overtake Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – It was a defensive slugfest for the first 12:00 of the game, but the scoring picked up near halftime and Ayanna Meadows would later hit some key 3-pointers to lead Chicopee to a 38-35 victory over Agawam in girls basketball action.

Agawam had the ability to run away with the game several teams, but they did not get the shots in they needed during the third quarter, allowing Chicopee to climb back into the game.

Agawam had a 25-19 lead in the third quarter. Chicopee's Mary Nahorniak scored a layup and Sophie Jesionowski had trey to bring Chicopee within just one point of the lead.

With time waning in the third quarter, Becca Uschmann went for the basket, but did not have an open lane. She would change directions, and then made a nifty hook shot at the buzzer to make it 27-24 at the end of the quarter.

Chicopee scored with 5:40 remaining in the fourth. Agawam



Samantha Stratton looks for an opening.

Terriers pin down Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team suffered a tough setback last week when they were defeated in a home meet against West Springfield, 56-15.

The Terriers scored six pinfalls over Agawam's injury-plagued team that was in the process of preparing for the holiday break and to host their own Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament, which took place earlier this week (look for highlights in next week's edition).

The Brownies are still without Jim Karl-Morin and Fred Karl-Morin. They have also been wrestling without David Rodriguez and Matt Plumador. The Karl-Morin brothers were both injured near the end of the football season. They are hoping to have Fred Karl-Morin back from a thumb injury this week or next week.

Coach Armando Ramos has been dealing with the injuries since the beginning of the regular season, and has been working to develop some quality backups in their place.

Some of Agawam's starters did also struggle in their matchups.

Nick Hope, who has been one of Agawam's best grapplers during the past two seasons, suffered a rare loss against Dakota Dubois in the heavyweight match of the evening. He was only able to manage a point and was otherwise unable to manage any offense as he suffered a 7-1 decision loss.

Agawam did pick up a win with Paul Taft at 170 pounds. Taft has been filling in admirably for Rodriguez early in the season. He would win a 10-4 decision over Jared Costa.

But West Springfield got things back under control at 182 pounds when Nimat Umerov picked up a decision win over Nick Blais.

Hayden Mendrala would pick up a win for Agawam with a pin over Joe Herbert at 132 pounds. Spencer Koziak was Agawam's only other winner, with a pinfall victory over John Polon at 220 pounds.

Agawam did not take much of a holiday break earlier this year as they traveled to a multi-team meet last weekend, and scored three wins in four meets against some quality teams from Connecticut. They took on St. Bernard's, Somers, Manchester, and Guil-

See WRESTLING, page 13

See BASKETBALL, page 13

CLASSIC, from page 12

and Comp was able to pull away with a few late free throws.

Agawam got off to a quick start with five points from Moccio. Moccio played very well for the Brownies.

Moccio nailed a layup early and after a Comp score, he nailed a trey to make it 5-2 Agawam.

Sean Moore nailed a free throw and later a layup to help Agawam jump out to a 10-4 lead. Agawam would have an 11-6 lead after one quarter.

Comp did not take that lying down, and got back to business in the second quarter with some great play by Bruce Carey, who was all over the court making plays happen.

The Colts would start with a 5-0 run to tie the score at 11-11, and Alec Webster helped the Colts take the lead with a 3-pointer. Moore would nail two free throws to pull Agawam within one, and Ohdraka hit a trey, one of two in the game for him, to give Agawam a 16-14 lead.

Agawam clung to a close lead 27-25 at halftime before Comp rolled out in the third quarter and limited the Brownies to just five third quarter points. Agawam made a great comeback to re-tie the score 40-40, before falling in the end.

Agawam got 14 points from Moccio. Ohdraka had 12 points and Alex Sours contributed nine points. Comp was led by 12 points from Kenny Mendez. Mason Labonte and Velasquez had eight points each.



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam's Alex Sours (25) goes up for a one-handed shot in the paint.

BASKETBALL, from page 12

had three different chances to score after that on turnovers, but did not convert on any of them.

Chicopee blew another chance with a pair of free throws, and Meghan D'Amours finally got Agawam back on the scoreboard with a pair of free throws with 3:24 left.

Emily Dowd then got an underhand layup from about 10 feet away to get Chicopee within one, and Meadows then hit a long 3-pointer to put Chicopee on top with 2:25 left 31-29.

Christie Mirski took a chance and nailed a 3s-pointer for the Brownies, and Agawam re-took the lead 32-31. But Meadows went to the right side, and got another trey, giving the Pacers a 34-32 lead.

Mirski would get fouled on a foolish play with 1:41 remaining. She received a bonus free throw, and made two shots to tie the score 34-34.

Agawam later had possession with the score tied, but did not run a lot of the clock down. Chicopee retook possession, and Meadows came up huge again, nailing her third trey of the quarter to make it 37-34.

At the time, Agawam had just three fouls. With about 30 seconds remaining, Agawam had no choice but to try and foul their way back to possession. They did that, and got a big chance with 4.5 seconds left.

Chicopee led 37-34, and Mirski was fouled. She had a chance to make the first free throw and then get a rebound and shoot the second one in for two points to tie the score. But Mirski crossed the free throw line and the play was whistled dead, giving Chicopee the ball back and the victory.

Mirski had 13 points and Uschmann had 10 points. For Chicopee Meadows had four treys for 12 points.

Agawam next plays on Jan. 6 against Chicopee Comp.

WRESTLING, from page 12

ford. They were victorious against all but the Guilford team. Their biggest meet win was against St. Bernard's, where they dominated 61-12. They had good wins against Somers 42-33 and Manchester 45-24.

Agawam was scheduled to host their tournament earlier this week and then were scheduled to have another home meet on Jan. 7 against Westfield at 7 p.m. at home.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.





Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Christie Mirski sets to make a bounce pass to her right.

HOCKEY TEAM HELPS OUT





Turley Publications submitted photos

SPRINGFIELD - Members of the Agawam junior varsity hockey team recently volunteered to help with the Springfield Police Department's "Learn to Skate" program. The events were held at Cyr Arena in Forest Park. The boys were a great help to the officers running the program. Pictured are Billy Schwarz, Paul Rivera, Theo Phillips and Kevin Lecuyer.



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Passerini pair leads chase past Ludlow

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After two straight wins to open up their regular season, Agawam believed they were in for a tough challenge when they faced Ludlow right before the Christmas break.

But Agawam was very strong jumping out to a 4-0 lead and going on to score a 7-0 drubbing over the Lions to remain undefeated in the 2014 portion of their regular season schedule



Agawam's Cam Rivest locks up with Ludlow's Tyler Diotalevi.

In a wild first period Anthony Passerini scored the first of two goals in the game, as did defenseman Seamus Curran. Mike Pfau and Joe Mercadante also scored early as Agawam showed no signs of slowing down and Ludlow's defense had no answers for any of Agawam's three lines.

In the second period, the Brownies continued to dominate possession and pepper the Ludlow goal. Ludlow had very few chances on Agawam, though they did have a brief few shots during a power play. Agawam sophomore goalie Connor McAnanama was equal to the challenge and continued to turn away the Lions. He would finish the game with his first shutout of the season.

Agawam would have a decided advantage a little more than halfway through the period by holding a 30-12 lead on shots on goal. With 6:30 remaining in the period, Agawam got their fifth goal of the game when their three forwards went on the attack.

Each would box the puck around the net, but Passerini's shot deflected off Cam Rivest and went into the goal for the Brownies. Passerini was credited with his second goal of the game while the deflection gave Rivest an assist, his second of the game.

The attack did not stop as Rivest got his third assist of the game with 2:18 remaining in the second period.

Rivest began the play by clearing the puck out of Agawam's zone and heading up the right side of the goal. He would go unopposed for most of the length and then made a very quick pass to the left all the way across the ice to Zach Circosta. Circosta caught Ludlow goalie Alex Will by complete surprise as Will was locked on Rivest. Circosta made a shot into a mostly open left side of the net to make it 6-0 Agawam.

The Brownies were able to get one goal in the third period, with Curran coming up with his second goal of the game on a long wrist shot from the far left near the blue line.

McAnanama finished with 22 saves on 22 shots. Will made 30 saves on 37 shots for Ludlow.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Elijah Bard and Seamus Curran scramble to get the puck past Ludlow goalie Alex Will. Ludlow defender Jake Murphy is also in the melee.

Curran and Passerini had two goals each while Circosta had a goal and two assists and Rivest had three assists.

Ludlow would drop to 2-2 for the regular season with the loss. They had since lost three more games and are 2-5 now.

Agawam defeated Auburn during the holiday break and is now 6-0-1. The Brownies will resume their regular season schedule on Tuesday when they face Westfield at Olympia Ice Center at 8 p.m.

Lancers take two from Agawam

Steutzel takes third in 1000 meters

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON - The Agawam boys and girls indoor track teams wrapped up the 2014 portion of their season with a double loss to Longmeadow.

The boys fell 81-14, while the boys dropped a 65-30 decision against the Lancers at Smith College.

For the girls, senior Alexandria Stuetzel placed third in the 1000 meters at 3 minutes, 26.59 seconds. Senior Kaitlyn Martin tied for sixth in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.80. Sophomore Sarah Carron placed seventh in the 300 meters at 47.56. Junior Grace Greene came in eighth in the high

jump at 4-07

They also placed sixth in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 2:06.70.

For the boys, senior Jason Carleton placed fourth in the 55 meters at 6.89, and seventh in the 300 meters at 39.26. Junior Tom Howard came in fifth in the 55-meter hurdles at 9.75. Senior Jeff Leclerc added a sixth in the high jump at 5-03. Junior Troy Gallerani came in eighth in the high jump

The boys also finished fourth in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:45.47.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

Winter brochure program available

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks & Recreation winter brochure is now available online at agawam.ma.us.

Information about January registrations for dances and lacrosse can be found in the winter brochure.

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Tough stretch continues for Lady Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls basketball team continues to struggle after winning their first game of the regular season against Amherst.

On Dec. 23, they were upended by West Springfield, which had a dominant first quarter, and went on to stifle Agawam's offense with a 55-26 win.

Agawam had a decent showing in the first quarter, but West Springfield was just that much better, outscoring the Brownies 23-10 to take a healthy lead into the second. From there, the Brownies were limited to single digits in each of the next three quarters, scoring just 16 points in three quarter.

The Terriers were excellent on defense and Agawam's shooting suffered because of

Meghan D'Amours, who has played well in each of the first three game for the Brownies, was shut down by West Springfield. She was limited to just nine points and made just one shot from the free throw line. Sam Stratton, a sophomore, was second on the team with eight points. She made one 3-pointer.

West Springfield had three double-digit scorers in the matchup.

Agawam has finished up the 2014 portion of their regular season schedule with a 1-3

The Brownies have started out the season with a narrow win over Amherst before

dropping matchups against Longmeadow and Chicopee.

Agawam nearly beat Chicopee, and held leads for most of the game, but they were done in by a bunch of late 3-pointers to suffer the loss.

Girls Swimming

The Agawam girls swimming team split a pair of meets prior to the holidays, dropping a meet against Westfield and picking up a win against Sci-Tech.

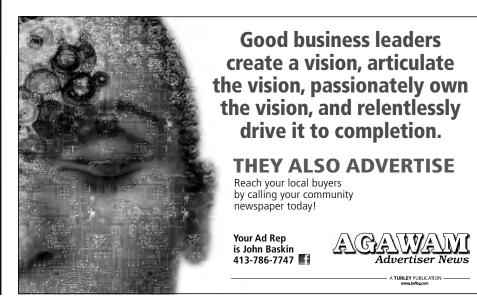
On Dec. 22, Agawam was defeated by Westfield 124-59. The Brownies did score a couple of individual wins with Megan Dustin following up her great season on the cross country team with a win in the 200-yard freestyle race. She was also a winner in the 500-yard freestyle. Dustin was also a member of the 400-yard freestyle relay team that picked up a win in 4:30.32.

Agawam's other individual winner was Monique Groux.

Against, Sci-Tech, Agawam had a first-place winner in every event. Dustin had two individual wins and two team wins. Alison Schwarz had two wins, with the 200-yard individual medley, and 100-yard butterfly events.

Agawam faced Amherst earlier this week, and meets Minnechaug at home Friday at 4 p.m. at Agawam Junior High School.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



egal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P2516GD In the interests of Brian S Mesick Of Agawam, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: **Petition for Appointment** of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 12/19/2014 by Leomary D Salvas of Agawam, MA will be held 01/21/2015 01:15 p.m. Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 50 State Street, 4th Floor Springfield, MA 01103

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: December 19, 2014

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate 1/1/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P2515GD In the interests of Leahmarie A Rudy Of Agawam, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: **Petition for Appointment** of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 12/19/2014 by Leomary D Salvas of Agawam, MA will be held 01/21/2015 01:15 p.m. Guardianship of Minor

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Hearing Located 50 State Street, 4th Floor Springfield, MA 01103

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File the original with the Court: and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: December 19, 2014

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate 1/1/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court **50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD14P2488EA **Estate of: Manning Stewart Case**

Date of Death: 10/21/2014 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Margaret C Reardon of Westfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: Margaret C Reardon of Westfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 01/13/2015

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 16, 2014 Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate

1/1/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampden Division **50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD14P2519EA **Estate of:**

Paul H Moreau, Sr. Also Known As: Paul H Moreau, Sr. **Date of Death: 4/20/14** INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Heather E Gingras of Agawam MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Heather E Gingras of Agawam MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal

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Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 1/1/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD14P2487EA **Estate of:** Randolph Adam Ryczek

Date of Death: 11/13/1990 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL ADJUDICATION** To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: Dorothy A Gravel of Raleigh NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: Dorothy A Gravel of Raleigh NC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 01/13/2015

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court. but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne **M Geoffrion**, First Justice of

Date: December 16, 2014 Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate 1/1/15

LEGAL NOTICE **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm, at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the petition of Verizon New England, Inc. for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits and handholes, with the wires and cables to be placed therein,

under the surface of Gold Street, Agawam, MA, to provide for the distribution of intelligence and communications; also for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, manholes, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes.

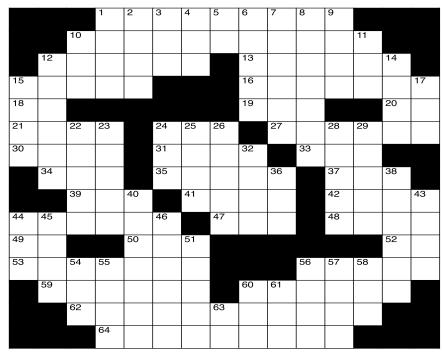
Robert E. Rossi, Chairman Administrative Sub-Committee

1/1/15

AGAWAM ZONING **BOARD OF APPEALS** LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT **December 8, 2014**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the appeal of Couture Partners, LLC. which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7, Paragraph B(2) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of an addition to a residential structure with less than the required front setback at the premises identified as 11 Ruth Avenue

Doreen Prouty Chairperson Agawam Board of Appeals 12/25/14,1/1/15



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 - 4. Supervises interstate commerce

- 5. Iceland (abbr.) 6. Cache
- 7. Diaphragm spasm
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- 36. Household god (Roman)
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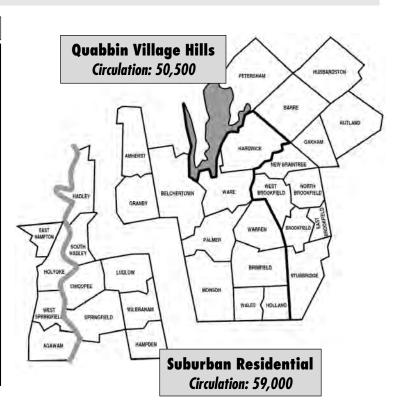


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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center's Blood Bank from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-3091.

Friday, Jan. 9

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES continues with "The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf" beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Free to the public.

A BLOOD DRIVE at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., to benefit Baystate Health will take place form 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Identification required. Donors must be 17 or older, in good health and weight at least 110 pounds.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

AGAWAM COMMUNITY ARTISTS will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library's community room. Guest speaker is Loretta Medeiros, acrylic artist. Guests are welcome.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERTS at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Diane Lipari, soprano, Kimberly Figueroa on flute and Miguel Campinho on piano, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For

more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivor-shipprogram@gmail.com.

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*National Newspaper Association Reader Survey

Christmas comes early at Red Door Theatre

The Red Door Theatre recently made great use of its new sound system installed in time for the recent production of "Countdown To Christmas." The new sound reinforcement of mixer and microphones were purchased though a grant awarded to the theatre group by the distribution committee of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Upon the committee's recommendation, Kit and Kaboodle, the non-profit operating organization of the Red Door Theatre, was awarded \$14,600 for the 25th Anniversary Launch to the Future Project from two charitable funds administered by Bank of America, trustee. The grants were awarded from the Eugene A. Dexter Charitable Fund and the Nan and Matilda Heydt Fund. The monies were to be used toward three projects, including the sound system, new stage curtains and stage flooring.

"We were so excited to have been awarded such a generous amount to cover all three," said Jane Seaver of Agawam, spokesperson for the Friends of the Red Door, who spearheaded the grant writing process. "It came just in time for our biggest production of the year."

"The quality of the vocal and musical amplification added a new magical dimension to the show," said tech director Lyle Pearsons, who worked with sound engineers from Suffield's Shoreline Audio and Visual Inc., who installed the equipment. "Christmas came early," he added.

For more information on the Red Door Theatre and its upcoming season, visit reddoortheatre.com.



Red Door Theatre cast members rock around their new microphones in the latest production, "Countdown To Christmas."

Think you know Agawam? Take the 2014 news quiz

How well did you follow the news in 2014? For each of the questions below, the answer appeared somewhere in the pages of the Agawam Advertiser News sometime in the past year. If you think you've got a good handle on everything that happened in this town in the past year, take the quiz and send your answers to Agawam Advertiser News, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. You may also fax 413-786-8457, or email editor Michael Ballway at mballway@ turley.com. Please send the answers on a separate piece of paper, typed or neatly printed, with your name and daytime telephone number (not for publication) at the top, and each question and answer denoted by number and letter only (e.g.: 1-A, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, etc.). Those with the highest scores will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the Agawam Advertiser News. Entries must be received by Jan. 12.

1. Agawam High School alumna Lisa Hersey was back on Cooper Street in January. Why?

- A. She represented the Harvard University financial aid office in a college admissions talk to AHS juniors.
- B. She gave a silk screening demonstration and insight into the art business as part of the school's Visiting Guest Artist program.
- C. She coached the Southwick Rams in a girls basketball game against the Brownies, winning what she called a "bittersweet" return to her former home court.
- D. She organized and played piano in a community talent show fundraiser for autism research.
- 2. Agawam High School's Anthony Basile and Brennen Liebel excelled by winning Western Mass., advancing through the All-State Meet and qualifying for the New **England Championships in what varsity sport?**
 - A. Wrestling
 - B. Doubles tennis
 - C. Track and field
- D. Swimming

3. Why was Kelly Theriault smiling and wearing a tiara on Feb. 9?

- A. She was participating in a "princess tea party" program at the library's Children's Room.
- B. She was showing off some of the jewelry available at her consignment shop in Feeding Hills. C. She had just been crowned Agawam's Colleen for the
- 2014 St. Patrick's Day parade.
- D. She wasn't that picture of her dressed as Elsa from "Frozen" was taken on Halloween.

4. What was the name of the heart health program at Robinson Park Elementary School in Feburary?

- A. Jump Rope for Heart
- B. Hula Hoop for Heart
- C. Run-Walk for Heart
- D. Silly String for Heart

5. Robert Kadis, who was named the 2014 recipient of the Citizenship Award by the St. Patrick's Day Committee, is best known for his leadership role in what group?

- A. The City Council
- B. The Cultural Council
- C. The Boy Scouts' Western Massachusetts Council
- D. The Sacred Heart Parish Council

- 6. Which of the following was offered on a "drive-thru" basis for one day only in March?
 - A. Ash Wednesday blessings, at Agawam United Methodist Church.
 - B. Free hamburgers, at Wendy's in Feeding Hills.
- C. Car washes, in a Student Council fundraiser at Agawam
- D. Copies of the Agawam Advertiser News, as part of a street-corner sales promotion.

7. Agawam Cinemas, when it originally opened in the 1970s, was part of a chain of community theaters named for what movie star?

- A. John Wayne
- B. Jimmy Stewart
- C. Joseph Cotten
- D. Jerry Lewis

8. What happened to the recordings of AHS students' May 2014 interviews with veterans?

- A. They were saved to a disk and sealed in a time capsule under the Agawam Veterans Green.
- B. They were edited by a professional documentary filmmaker and shown on WGBY-TV.
- C. They were archived in the Library of Congress
- D. Nothing yet, but all three of the above are planned.

9. Bethany Assembly of God held an anniversary celebration May 21 at its Main Street sanctuary, marking how many years since it was founded in Springfield?

- B. 75 C. 55

10. Former mayoral candidate Alan Griffin, who battled neighbors over livestock on his North Street property, died in June. What animals did he keep?

- A. Cows
- B Goats
- C. Chickens D. Skunks
- 11. Republic Services held a safety lesson in June to instruct Granger Elementary School students about the "danger zone" around a what type of vehicle?
- A. School buses
- B. Construction vehicles
- C. Passenger cars
- D. Garbage trucks

12. What is the name of the Toronto-based Celtic rock band that played its annual set at SummerFest in July?

- A. Enter the Haggis B. The Kilt-ers
- C. Blarney the Dinosaur
- D. Eire Supply

13. The Agawam Junior Women's Club hosted a program on Sept. 4 for parents and their children who are doing what for the first time?

- A. Playing organized sports
- B. Checking out a library book

- C. Swimming
- D. Riding the school bus

14. What was the name of the contractor engaged in water main work this summer along North Westfield Street in Feeding Hills?

- A. Melchior Construction
- B. Caspar Construction
- C. Baltazar Construction
- D. Three Kings Construction

15. What did regional police agencies find in a storage unit in Agawam in October, as part of one of the biggest drug busts in town history?

- A. \$1.1 million worth of marijuana
- B. \$1.1 million worth of cocaine and heroin
- C. \$1.1 million in cash and 118 pounds of marijuana
- D. \$1.1 million in cash and 1.8 kilograms of cocaine

16. Before October, when was the last time the YMCA had a physical presence in town?

- A. In the 1950s, before an "Express YMCA" on Springfield Street closed
- B. In the 1960s, when it owned Perry Lane Park
- C. In the 1970s, when it owned a YMCA on Suffield Street
- D. There never had been a YMCA in Agawam

17. Agawam filmmaker Mark Del Negro's first featurelength film, a slasher flick shot in Agawam and surrounding towns, debuted at Entertainment Cinemas on Oct. 24. What was the film's name?

- A. "Blood Valley"
- B. "Blood River"
- C. "Blood Reservoir"
- D. "Blood Rotary"

18. Who was the Agawam resident who ran against state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga in November?

- A. Mike Leahy
- B. Evan Falchuk
- C. Rosemary Sandlin D. Sam DiSanti
- 19. In a revival of an old tradition, who served Thanksgiving pies one day to students at the junior high school?
- A. Brownies varsity football players
- B. Eighth grade teachers
- C. The mayor and school officials
- D. Student Council members

20. In the month leading up to Christmas, how many Santa Claus hats appeared in photographs on the front page of the Agawam Advertiser News?

- A. One
- B. Five
- C. Ten
- D. Fifty

Compiled by Michael J. Ballway